

CHURCH ALIVE

July 2025



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
Price 50p

THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

Vicar

The Revd: Guy Scott

The Vicarage, 42 Priory Close

Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HZ

Tel: 412904

Email: vicarmsnstjohns@gmail.com

Associate Priest

Revd: Philip Hopper

Tel: 07596 759 584

Email: frphiliphopper@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Liz Casson

Tel: 411216

Email: msnparishoffice@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Mrs Pat Clynes

Tel: 412928

37 Staddlestones

Email: patclynes@hotmail.co.uk

Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PP

Mrs Hilary Denning

Tel: 07828 550006

87 Nelson Ward Drive

Email: hilaryjohn87@gmail.com

Radstock, BA3 3FS

SERVICES

SUNDAY

8am Said Eucharist

10 a.m. Parish Eucharist

WEEKDAYS

The Eucharist is celebrated on a Tuesday at 12 noon.

Baptisms, Weddings etc. by arrangement with the Vicar.

Communion at home for those unable to attend church it is easily arranged with the Vicar.

Safeguarding

Who should you talk to if you observe or are told about Safeguarding concerns?

Ann Munton, Parish Safeguarding Officer Tel: 07895038871

Email: midsomernortonsafeguarding@gmail.com

Diocesan safeguarding manager: Ben Goodhind, Tel: 01749 588917

Email: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/reporting-concerns-or-abuse>



Church Alive
The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown
Volume 809 Number 7



GIFT DAY

We will be holding a Gift Day in Church

On Friday 18th July

from 10 until 12pm.

The Churchwardens very much hope you will be able
to join them that day for

Coffee or tea and very **delicious cake!**

MIDSOMER NORTON DEANERY SERVICE

You are warmly invited to join together for Morning Worship at the
Midsomer Norton Deanery Service.

- ◇ Sunday 27th July @10:30am
- ◇ St John's Church, **Chilcompton** BA3 4HN
- ◇ Archdeacon Charlie Peer

We look forward to seeing as many as are able to join us from across
the 19 churches of the MSN Deanery as we welcome our guest
speaker Archdeacon Charlie Peer.

There will be no other services within the Deanery on this day.

St John's Chilcompton is pleased to provide refreshments after the
service and plenty of free parking.

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear friends,

‘Phew! What a scorcher!’ As I write this letter, it’s flaming June and I’m sweltering away, hiding from the sun in a shady room.

Spring 2025 was very beautiful, and I loved being outside in the garden or out with my dogs in the fields.

But today as spring becomes summer, we are confined to barracks...it’s too hot for us.



Now I know we are often stereotyped as being obsessed by talking about the weather, but what I hear more and more as I natter when I’m out and about, is how things are not normal, how things have changed in people’s lifetimes. The Met office has revealed that spring 2025 was a double record breaker – the warmest and driest on record. The sea around our coast also experienced a marine heatwave, in places up to 4 degrees warmer. This year our usual springtime weather fronts were kept at bay by high pressure. It goes to confirm Met office predictions of more extreme weather, as recent decades show warmer, sunnier and drier conditions.



Clearly our climate is changing, the earth is warming, rainfall patterns are changing and sea levels are rising. The planet is experiencing more heatwaves, floods, drought and fires.

And although some refuse to accept any human responsibility for the changes we see, the science is pretty clear. Since the Industrial Revolution, we have pumped incredible amounts of carbon into our atmosphere and that has super-charged any natural change. The level of that change will depend on how quickly we cut emissions of the harmful greenhouse gases we produce.

On 15th July many Christians will remember St Swithun. He was a humble man who became Bishop of Winchester. He required no grand tomb and when he died he was buried at his order in the ground outside his church, where the people walked each day.

Moving his remains to the grand new cathedral gave birth to a legend as it is said that storms raged and it rained for 40 days as a sign of his disapproval. God's creation was clearly very unhappy as well!

God's creation is clearly telling humanity something now. And as stewards of creation Christians are called to respond. The Anglican Church's fifth Mark of Mission requires all *'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'*.



Our Diocese of Bath and Wells is committed to shrinking harmful emissions to Net Zero by 2030. It also wants to encourage and equip churches and individual Christians to join them in this mission. From buying carbon-free soap to installing a brand new air source heat pump, reducing our carbon footprint can have a major impact.

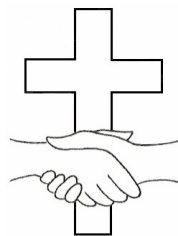
As your parish church we need to play our part. If this is a cause that stirs you to act, and you are able help us meet the challenge, please get in touch with Guy or myself.

Fr Philip.



Ladies Group June Meeting

In June, we visited Matthew Higby's workshop. Matthew is a third-generation bellringer and in 1996 he was able to follow his dream when he founded the company and now carries on the tradition of bell founding, tuning and maintenance which stretches back to medieval times.



Our visit to Matthew Higby Ltd offered a fascinating insight into the world of bells. Matthew delivered an engaging talk, showing us the processes involved in designing and crafting new bells, as well as the meticulous work of conserving and retuning older ones. Accompanied by photographs and diagrams, his presentation not only explained the processes but also emphasised the artistry and science involved. We were able to view bells stored on behalf of the Keltek Trust, which helps churches acquire surplus or redundant bells, as well as a peal of bells ready to be installed in a local church.

Beyond bells, the company also creates the ropes needed for the art of bell ringing and Matthew demonstrated the rope-making process. A small ringing peal of bells is installed at the premises and Matthew has developed training aids for ringers, which he demonstrated, to conclude a very enjoyable evening.

Thank you to Margaret and Tim for organising the visit. Matthew's talks are given in aid of charity and have raised over £2,500 to date.

If you would like to find out more about Ladies Group, please speak to Kay Harvey or Ann Munton or pick up a programme from the back of church. New members are always welcome.



Listening to young people

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells



Later this month I shall be joining young people from around our diocese on a visit to the Taizé community in France. Taizé offers the opportunity to take a step back from daily life, meet people from around the world, join in a week of prayer, worship and Bible teaching, and reflect on our life of faith. In churches we often speak *about* God. To visit Taizé is to have a big encounter *with* God.

This will be the third time I have helped lead a Bath and Wells group on this pilgrimage. Some of our young people will be making a return visit, others attending for the first time. I am looking forward to seeing all they gain from the experience and to simply spending time listening to them and all they have to say.

The opportunity to spend an extended time listening to young people is an utter privilege. While more young people are showing an interest in faith, the Church of England is undeniably still dominated by the older generations. Whenever I can, I value immensely the chance to listen to young people – of their hopes and dreams, their fears and perspectives, their insights and understanding. Such listening is essential if young people are to be fully part of the life of our Church. It's vital if we are to continue to see the shoots of growth that are happening across our diocese and the wider church.

We're pursuing this challenge of listening to young people in lots of different ways. It doesn't just happen at Taizé! Our Young Leaders Hub is one arena. Elsewhere we are looking at how young people can play their full part within the life of our diocesan decision-making bodies and in the national church too. I urge you to do the same where you are.

'Nothing about us without us' is a challenge that's sometimes extended when discussing how young people can participate fully wherever they find themselves. What an aim and a prize this would be for us all to pursue.

**All are welcome to join us
at our next**

Family Service



**10am Sunday 6th July
St John the Baptist Church
Midsomer Norton**

Patronal Festival weekend

Around 50 people attended the “Songs of Praise” on Saturday afternoon when Father Guy selected 5 hymns that reflected his life experiences. Each hymn was introduced with an explanation about the events in his life that each of the hymns represented.

“O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness” was the first hymn and “The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended” completed the singing. An afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes, hot and cold drinks followed. There was also a guessing game as to how many sweets were in a bowl.

Over £500 has been raised and Pat and Hilary would like to thank all who attended, contributed or helped in making the event a success.

The 10am service on Sunday celebrated the birth of John the Baptist and children from the congregation assisted during the service.

St John the Baptist Church
Midsomer Norton

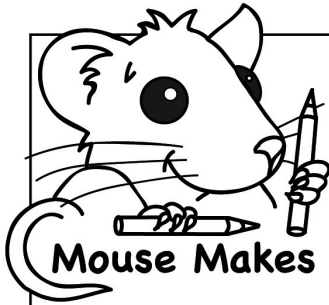
Lunchtime concert



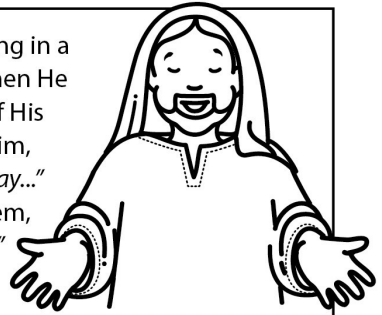
Come and hear the choir of St John's School



Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 1pm
Refreshments served from 12.30pm



"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." And He said to them, "When you pray, say..."



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.
Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

but _____
us from _____.
For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

D T E O P R G O D
F E E B R E A D I
O M G T O P P G S
R P W R T E O L C
G T L E E N W O I
I A O S C T E R P
V T R P T A R Y L
E I D A I N A M E
N O S S O C D A S
E N P S N E V F W
S K P E V I L A I
S I R S I N S T L
Y N A E A R T H L
G Y H E A V E N
I D E L I V E R E
F O R G I V E V E
A M E N W O R L D
I L F L J E S U S



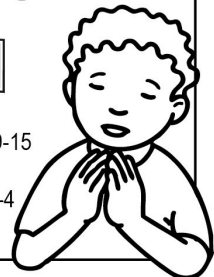
Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



Midsomer Norton Fayre takes place on
Saturday 12th July 2025
From 12noon until 5pm
At the Town & Leisure Park



Once again St John's Church will be running a
plant stall
So why not pop along to see and buy some of our
colourful stock!

As well as our stall this annual family-friendly
extravaganza, will include attractions such as,
Bouncy Castles, over 30 market stalls,
Face Painting, Punch & Judy, Street Organ, Goat
Rides, Balloon Modelling, Music Workshops, a
range of catering options and much, much more.

FROM THE PARISH PUMP—HOLY DAYS

25th July St James the Apostle - apostle to Spain

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee—the ‘sons of thunder’, as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.

James stands out on three accounts: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus took him, along with Peter and John, to ‘watch’ with him in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he went on to be the first apostle to die for the Christian faith, when in AD 44 King Herod Agrippa put him to the sword in Jerusalem at Passover time.

In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century, and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom. This in time transformed the iconography of James, and his emblems became the pilgrim’s hat and the scallop-shell of Compostela.

Over 400 English churches have been dedicated to James.





Seussical

Based on the Works of DR. SEUSS

Music by
**STEPHEN
FLAHERTY**

Lyrics by
**LYNN
AHRENS**

Book by
**LYNN AHRENS &
STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

Co-Conceived by **ERIC IDLE**

**SATURDAY 5 &
SUNDAY 6 JULY**

Dragonfly Theatre, Writhlington School
merrimantheatre.com



This amateur production is presented by
arrangement with Music Theatre International
www.mtishows.co.uk

From The Registers

Christian Funeral ***"May they rest in peace"***

12th June Daphne Jean Bridges



TRIO PARADIS

Jacquelyn Bevan - piano Ruth O'Shea - violin Linda Stocks - cello

Friendship through music

FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY
The Latin American Collection
Not just tangos...

FRIDAY 7th MARCH
Daughters of the Muse
Music by Women Composers

FRIDAY 4th APRIL
Spring Song
Sunshine & Showers

FRIDAY 2nd MAY
Northern Lights
Scandinavian Masterpieces

FRIDAY 6th JUNE
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Nocturnes & Reveries

Monthly Café Concerts

**First Friday of
each month
at 12.30pm**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH **Midsummer Norton BA3 2HX**

Café serving home-made cakes open from 12 noon. Concerts last c45 min.
Retiring collection. Please check website for venue change to Town Hall.

www.trioparadis.com

www.mnct.co.uk

Date	Reader/<i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
6th July	Linda Robertson <i>St John's School</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
13th July	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>David Moore</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
20th July	John Shears <i>Carol Moore</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
27th July	Deanery Service	A Fitch, L Hurst
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		

St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton Hire of Church Hall

The hall can be hired for £13per hour for regular or one-off bookings
There is disabled access and toilet facilities, along with a baby changing area. A fully fitted kitchen, table & chairs and will fit a 15x15 bouncy castle for children's parties

***Please contact: Caroline Thatcher on 07591 557578
Email: stjohnschurchhallbookings@gmail.com***

***This month's front cover was provided by Andrew Broadhurst
It is the first of three fish stones as a doxology to the Lord's Prayer.
on the boundary of Heathercombe Estate on Dartmoor, Devon.
They were erected between 1969 and 1977 by Claude Pike***

Magazine deadline for copy is the 14th of the month

To: Mrs Linda Broadhurst, 43 Furlong Close, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PR
Telephone: 07941 204179 Email: stjohnsmagazine@aol.com

Parish Directory

		Telephone
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Angela Fitch	413636
Choir Leader	Mr Geoff Miles	
Church Cleaning	Mrs Pat Marriott.	01761752546
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs Caroline Thatcher	07591 557578
Coffee Rota	Mrs Margaret Small	411474
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	07941 204179
Flower Rota	Mrs Carol Moore	412226
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
Head Server	Mr Matthew Livsey	07971231363
St John's School	Mrs Danielle West-Gaul	412019
Ladies Group Leader	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	07941 204179
Magazine Distribution	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	07941 204179
Organist	Mrs Margaret Whatley	418072
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Ann Munton	07895 038871
PCC Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
PCC Vice Chairperson	Mrs Hilary Denning	07828 550006
Tower Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895

Church Organisations

The Choir practise on Fridays from 6:30 pm until 7:50 pm.

The Friendship Group: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The Ladies Group meets on the second Thursday of the month

The Society of Our Lady of Walsingham meets every 3rd Friday of the month at 11am for Said Mass and the Angelus. The Cell takes an annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham in September. A warm welcome is extended to all who would like to attend the service or join us on Pilgrimage.

Further details can be obtained from a member of the Clergy.

**You can stay in touch with us on our website: www.stjohnschurchmsn.org.uk
 Twitter: [@StJohnMSN](#), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](#)
 and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](#).**

Tuesday 1st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 4th	12:30	Trio Paradise Concert
Sunday 6th	3rd Sunday after Trinity	10am Family Service
Tuesday 8th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	19:00	PCC Meeting
Wednesday 9th	13:00	St John's School Concert
	14:00	Friendship Group
Thursday 10th	19:00	<i>Ladies Group</i>
Friday 11th	10 - 12noon	Gardening Group
Sunday 13th	4th Sunday after Trinity	
Monday 14th		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Tuesday 15th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 18th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 20th	5th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 22nd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 25th	10 - 12noon	Gardening Group
Sunday 27th	Deanery Service	10:30am at St John's, Chilcompton
Tuesday 29th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church